



Our Mission: *To make known the love of God through Jesus Christ.*

Our Vision: *We are empowered to live out our faith in daily life.*

Resting in Jesus

An old hymn declares:

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest.

Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."

I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn and sad.

I found in him a resting-place, and he has made me glad. (Horatius Bonar, 1846)

Many people these days feel exhausted by division, the news, hatred that seems louder than love. More than ever, we who are "weary, worn, and sad" need to hear Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest."

Jesus wants to be our resting place — but not so we can hide forever from reality. Instead, he offers a place of refreshment where we can relax long enough to remember that not everything is bad; there is gospel to share.

Not everything is hatred; God's love is stronger.

Resting in Jesus, we focus on God's goodness. We are reminded of love shown by kind people to those in trouble, bold voices speaking for justice, warm friendships that brighten our days. Gladdened by rest, we rise again. Jesus walks with us, as always. We can lean on him every step of the way.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

Thanks to the Presbytery of East Iowa! FPC Monticello was awarded a \$2,500.00 grant through the Presbytery of East Iowa's Mission/Social Justice Initiative Grant for our solar project. This is one of the many ways the Presbytery works to encourage mission and social justice initiatives and support churches through out the presbytery. **Thank you PEIA.**

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PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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MACKENZIE KAHLER**

TREASURER

DAN SAUNDERS

WORSHIP

10 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

**8:30 AM YOUTH
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP



I know what to do to get ready for Christmas (put out the decorations, trim the tree, and find the gifts) but I little less sure about getting ready for Easter. I guess I should get the baskets out, color the eggs and start searching for the right chocolates.

Lent is the season that the Christian Church will turn its attention toward getting ready for Easter. Lent is a season that calls us to prepare ‘by self-examination and penitence, prayer and fasting, by works of love and meditating on God’s word’ (BOCW). Lent calls us to examine our faith, to boster our faith, and to live our faith because all these things get us ready to live a new as ‘Easter people.’

The vision of the future that FPC has adopted is, “We (the congregation) are empowered to live out our faith in daily life.” I don’t think there is a better way to live out that faith than to practice these lenten disciplines. But, like many things, we might need to live into these practices one at a time in order that we don’t just become overwhelmed and give up.

Maybe this March and April you commit to reading one passage of scripture each day, or spending a few moments in prayer, or explore fasting as a spiritual practice (instead of a medical one), or doing good things for others.

God’s blessings to you as you prepare for Easter.

Pastor Bill

Capital Campaign and Building Projects Update

Thanks to you all for your support of this capital campaign and these building projects.

As of February 23, 2025 we have received \$ 151,000 in gifts and pledges.

Of this amount we have already received \$58,450.

The budgeted cost of the work on the sanctuary windows, solar panels, mini splits in the office and education area, and kitchen floor totals \$300,000.

The loan from the PCUSA Investment Loan Program is in process and the closing date at this time is March 21. This loan will give us the working capital (or cash flow) we need to get the projects going while giving us time to get them paid for.

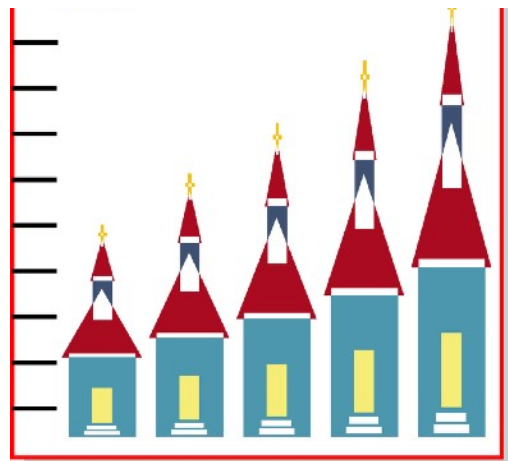
In December 2024 we signed a contract with Glass Heritage for \$ 47,587.00 plus tax. This contract covers Phase 1 of the sanctuary windows and covers the three most critical windows that need immediate attention.

Session voted on 2/19/25 to sign and send the required deposits for the Solar Project and Phase II of the windows. Session also voted to approve moving forward on the heating/cooling (mini split) units for the education wing. We will update you on a tentative schedule for these projects as the vendors let us know.

If you have any questions about the projects or campaign, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Bill, Don Smith, Dan Saunders or any Session member.

We still have more money to raise but are thankful for all the support, gifts, and pledges that will make these projects a reality.

Thank you!



Scholarship application packets are now available. If you would like a packet, please stop in to the church office, or email office@fpcmonticello.org to request a packet to be emailed to you. *Reminder: all applications MUST be submitted in hard copy format to the church office by **April 1st**.*

THANK YOU to Zach Long with **The Lock Shop**, for providing additional keys to our building upon request, and donating the cost of those products and services provided to the church!



Thanks for Helping Out! Giving.

It takes all of us pitching in to make the church not only work, but work in the way it was intended.

“Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people!”

— 1Cor 12:7 The Message

Each month I have been trying to remind us of how the church in general, and this church specifically, needs everyone pitching in and contributing, to make ‘church’ work. I have talked about things like helping out in worship, or serving as an elder or deacon, or offering hospitality. This month I want to talk about our helping take care of our facility.

Over the course of a month we are fortunate to have lots of people come in and out of our church doors. There is Sunday School and Worship, there are the Pie Ladies, the Boy Scouts, and those who come needing the Food Pantry. There are activities that happen weekly and those that happen occasionally like funerals or weddings.

We can all help out by taking care of some of those little things that we see need doing. Picking up some trash on the floor, or making sure papers are put away. Get more hand towels for the bathroom, or vacuuming up the spilled snacks. If you see something that needs doing, go ahead and do it. If you need help or aren’t sure where to find something just ask.

Heather, the church custodian, does come in at least once or twice during the week. When she is in she does the vacuuming, empties trash cans, cleans bathrooms, and mops floors. Your picking up between these times helps make our facility welcoming to all who use our church.

Thanks for helping out!



Remember and honor a loved one this Easter season by purchasing an Easter lily and decorating the church sanctuary.

If you provide a lily in honor of a loved one, please contact the church office by phone/message, 319-465-3393, or email, office@fpcmonticello.org, with the name of loved one(s) to be recognized in the bulletin and newsletter.

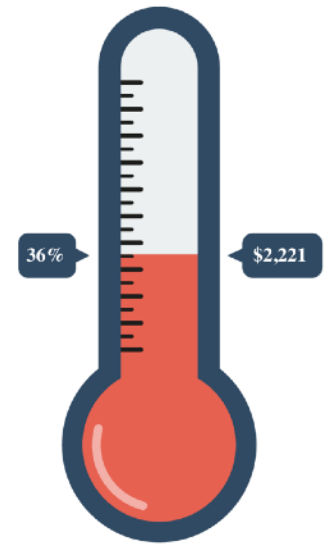
Reminder: you are responsible for providing your own lily (these are not purchased through the church). Please arrange for your lily to arrive at in the sanctuary **after** Palm Sunday. Thank you.

The 2025 Presbyterian per capita is \$45.34 per active member. Per capita payments received to date are **\$2,221.66 toward our required per capita payment of \$6,212. (35.75%)** Per capita is an amount of money per member that our congregation pays to our larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This money is part of the glue that holds presbyterians together. It is the money that enables us to work with other Presbyterian churches in our presbytery and across the country. It is also the money that allows us to work with other churches to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world

Please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church, notating funds are for “Per Capita”.

Thank you for being a faithful Presbyterian!

GOAL: \$6,212



Thank you for your continuous support of the Food Pantry.

Current needs include:

- women’s feminine products,
- toilet paper,
- regular size shampoo,
- regular sized toothpaste,
- dishwashing soap,
- laundry soap,
- canned fruits,
- canned vegetables,
- frozen and canned meats,
- cereal (other than Cheerios), and
- pasta sauce

Donations, food and financial, are taken during pantry hours:

Mondays, 5 pm - 7 pm

Fridays, 2 pm - 4 pm



Registration for **Camp Bear Creek’s 2025 summer camp** programs are now open.

Visit bearcreek.camp to see all of the dates and programs available this summer.

Be sure to register soon to guarantee your spot in the camp program of your choice.

Early registration pricing ends March 15th!





PC(USA) Special Offering **One Great Hour of Sharing** will be received on Easter Sunday. Next month, we'll include a special offering envelope for the OGHS offering. Offerings can be mailed in, dropped off to the church office, or dropped in the offering plate. You can use your OGHS envelope, or memo your offering "OGHS." Thank you!

Blessing of Seed and Soil, Sunday, April 6th

The service of Blessing of Seed and Soil is also known as Rogation Sunday. I learned about Rogation Sunday when I was in seminary in Dubuque through a rural ministry class. Rogation, the practice of offering prayers and fasting in order to beseech God's blessing on seed, soil, and harvest has been around since the 6th Century. Today it is more widely practiced in the Roman Catholic or Anglican traditions but Protestants have adapted the practice to fit their worship as well.



During worship on April 6th, we will gather to ask God to bless the seed and soil. We will ask God to bless and keep safe those who work the land and tend the animals that feed us.

Please plan to join us and invite others to join us as we gather to celebrate our connection to the land and to one another.



VBS 2025 is Announced!

July 28th-August 1st, 2025

Parents-if your students loved the MMA VBS in 2024 at the Youth Development Center or if you missed the deadline for last year's VBS-

Please Mark Your Calendar for 2025 VBS!

Registration starts soon

It will again be online registration. More information to come!



Presbyterian Pie Service



Need something sweet after that corned beef and cabbage?
Contact the Pie Committee to reserve your pies today!

Contact Pam at (319) 480-7700 or Kris (319) 480-1538 to place your



March is here and so is Noisy Coin!

On Sunday, March 30th, we will collect our noisy coin offering for Holt International. Holt International is a Christian Organization committed to expressing God's compassion for children. FPC Monticello's children and youth have been sponsoring children around the world their partnership with Holt International for over 35 years. Currently our children and youth are sponsoring 5 year old Thanakrit from Thailand. Our March Noisy Coin Offering will to to support the continued work of Holt International.

Each week during worship, we'd like to include a couple of church families on our Family Prayer list. For the month of March, please remember to include in your prayers our March families:



March 2: Lisa Hosford and Mike & Cheryl Howie

March 9: Jerry Jasa and Brooke, Joe, Zander (Alden), Asher & Ruby Johnson

March 16: Allison, Josh, Owen, Madalyn, and Olivia Kelchen and Brien & Lisa Keltner

March 23: Keith, Amy, Brooklyn & Dylan Keltner and Glen King

March 30: Janean King and Madison, Clayton & Jayde Krause



Betty Lambert

Evalena Lang

Doug Mettler

Betty Yount

Anamosa CC

Barb Null

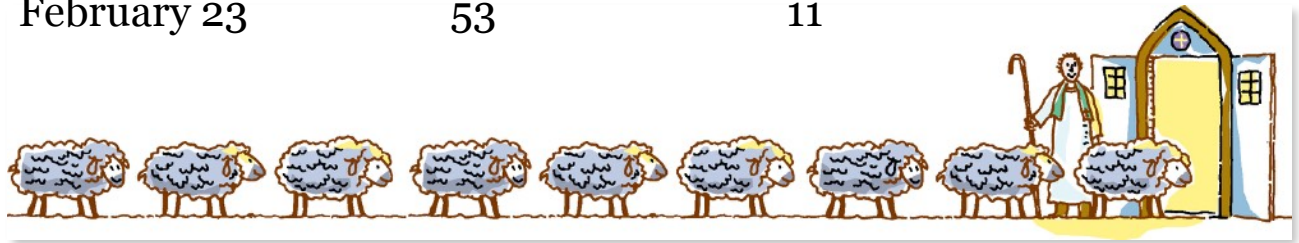
Corridor Crossing-CR

Marj Stubbe

Wellington, Decorah

Lorraine Haag

Attendance school:	Worship:	Sunday
January 28	86	10
February 2	46	11
February 9	49	9
February 16	42	6
February 23	53	11



Session Meeting Highlights – February 2025

Communion served February 2nd - 44 served

Camp & Conference drive thru soup supper will be held February 26th from 4:30-7:00.

Ecumenical Vacation Bible School will be held July 28-August 1.

Session approved signing of contracts with Glass Heritage (sanctuary windows), Rabe Hardware (solar), and Next Generation (mini-splits).

Pastor Bill will be Pastor-in-Residence at Camp Bear Creek the week of June 20.

